

SPARTAN DAILY

VOLUME 124, NUMBER 12

Serving San Jose State University since 1934

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2005

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Lorry Thomas / Daily Staff

A couple celebrates Valentine's Day and a birthday by strolling through the gardens at Montalvo in Saratoga. Montalvo is an arts center with two theaters, an art gallery, the Villa Montalvo and hiking trails.

Gifts increasingly more important on Valentine's Day

By Lauren Bosch
Daily Staff Writer

Commercialism has become a way of life in the United States as holidays are added to the calendar and more importance is placed on the art form of gift giving, according to a report by Match.com.

At the top of this holiday pyramid is Valentine's Day, the original meaning of which was to show love between couples. Today, the focus is on how much money can be spent on flowers, teddy bears, balloons, dinner and candy. It has become more than just buying a significant other gifts and going out to dinner, says CNNmoney.com.

Valentine's Day has become a day some men fear and one that some women place a lot of meaning and expectation into. The importance of giving gifts has made the people of those countries that celebrate the day — the United States, Canada, Mexico, Great Britain, France and Australia — pay more attention to what is bought and what activities couples take part in, says a report by CNN.com.

"I think that Valentine's Day has been made into a much bigger (day) than before," said Vanessa Jacobsen, a junior majoring in business marketing. "I think when you're in a relationship, it's expected that you do something for the holiday. If you don't do something, then you're going to get into trouble by your partner. It's the one day that you have to tell someone that you love them. I think that's ridiculous."

Although the holiday still holds some of its original Christian and Roman traditions,

more focus is placed on the commercial aspects, says a report by CNN.

Valentine's Day has several different stories, all of which revolve around St. Valentine. One of the most prevalent stories is that Valentine was a priest during the third century in Rome. Emperor Claudius II decided to outlaw marriage, because he felt single men made better soldiers. According to "The History Channel," Valentine continued performing illegal marriages for soldiers.

The legend also states that Valentine sent the very first "Valentine" card when he sent his lover a letter signed, "From your Valentine."

In Great Britain, Valentine's Day got its popularity during the 17th century. Friends and lovers were encouraged to send small tokens of affection to one another because direct affection was highly discouraged.

Since the appearance of the first mass-produced Valentine's card during the 1840s, the Greeting Card Association reports that an estimated one billion cards are sent each year.

This figure makes Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year, behind Christmas. According to the Greeting Card Association, of that number, 85 percent of those cards are purchased by women.

Conventional ways to celebrate Valentine's Day are some of the safest ways to go, said Mark Crumpacker, a junior majoring in computer science and mathematics. Gifts, such as flowers, candy, jewelry and lingerie, are among the top purchased

see VALENTINE'S, page 3

Values forum asks students for opinions

By Jean Blomo
Daily Staff Writer

The Office of the President, the Student Affairs Division and the Associated Students will host two sessions of "A Conversation Around Strategic Planning" today to discuss student values.

"Think of strategic planning as a way of planning our future," said Dorothy Poole, the assistant to the president for institutional planning.

The forums will take place from noon to 1 p.m., and then again from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Loma Prieta Room of the Student Union.

see VALUES, page 5

Playwright dies at 89

By Mayra Flores
Daily Staff Writer



MILLER

Hailed as America's greatest playwright by critics, Arthur Miller died Thursday night in his home in Roxbury, Connecticut, of heart failure, said Julia Bolus, his assistant.

Miller was renowned for revealing the many flaws of the American dream through the life of his famous character, Willy Loman.

In 1949, at the age of 33, Miller won the Pulitzer Prize for his American dream gone wrong, "Death of a Salesman."

see MILLER, page 3

Freedom at risk, academics say

Kassing applauds senate for launching initiative

By Banks Albach
Daily Staff Writer

The consensus among campus faculty members at the first annual Academic Freedom Forum on Friday was clear — the future of academic freedom in higher education is at risk.

Throwing his support behind San Jose State University faculty in the half-capacity Engineering auditorium, interim President Don Kassing thanked the Academic Senate for "creating the initiative for this discussion" and highlighted the importance of academic freedom.

"It's so fundamental to what we are about as a coun-

see FORUM, page 3

Polynesian dance practices under way

By Marsea Nelson
Daily Staff Writer

Feet softly pounded the floor in unison and floral skirts gently swished from side to side at this semester's first official Polynesian dance practice Monday evening.

About 25 students learned smooth, fluid dance movements with names such as "hela" and "ka'o."

The practices are in preparation for San Jose State University's Fifth Annual Polynesian Lu'au presented this April by the student organization Pride of the Pacific Islands.

Although luau is traditionally Hawaiian, the students learn dances

from Hawaii, Samoa, New Zealand and Tahiti that they will perform at the luau.

Leslie Minor, a junior majoring in creative arts, attended practices last semester, which concentrated on learning the basics. She said she enjoys the dances and looks forward to performing at her first luau.

"It's a dance craft that's very historical and has a lot of background and heritage to it," Minor said. "It tells a story so you're not just out there dancing, but a lot of the moves have deep meaning and lots of history."

The dances were originally developed to preserve stories because there was no

see DANCE, page 5



Colin Underwood / Daily Staff

Instructors Kimberly Sylvester, and Courtney Tarifa lead a group of students in Polynesian dancing during a Feb. 7 practice in Spartan Complex, room 75.

HOW SWEDE IT IS

Turkey accession could bridge West and East

Despite lethal hostilities, the people of Iraq chose democracy Jan. 31, raising hopes to end antagonism between Western and Muslim societies. About a month earlier, members of the European Union took a step toward bridging the gap with the Islamic world as they agreed to begin accession negotiations with Turkey on Oct. 3.

Although vastly different in execution, both represent landmark events in fostering democracy and, ultimately, peace.

Yet, while Iraqi insurgents continue to impede the peace process by waging violent attacks against U.S. forces, Europe could pioneer a lasting inclusion of a Muslim state into a modern, democratic welfare union.

Nonetheless, some members fear that Turkey's 99 percent Muslim population would clash religiously and culturally with the large Christian majorities of the other nations. Unfortunately, such anti-Islamic sentiments, based on fear of change, seem to have permeated much of Europe and turned the EU into an orthodox "members only" rich man's club.

One resolute opponent pushing the anti-foreign viewpoint is France's former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who said that a Turkish EU-membership would trigger Europe's downfall.

What d'Estaing overlooks, however, is Europe's 40-year-old promise to grant Turkey full membership following its compliance with the Copenhagen criteria — a prerequisite that Turkey is presently about to satisfy.

Since 2001, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has run a campaign to convince Europe of the necessity to include a democratic Muslim country in the EU. To win the support of Europe's key players, Erdogan has carried out extensive reforms of the nation's criminal justice system and added fundamental clauses, such as freedom of speech, freedom of religion and the right to organize. In addition, Turkey has abolished the death penalty and pledged to end torture and corruption before joining the EU.

Despite the nation's speedy, remarkable progress, problems such as corruption, torture and oppression of women and minorities, especially toward the Kurds, persist. These violations of human rights naturally obscure Turkey's membership chances, and so they should.

Nonetheless, Turkey's steadfast desire to savor the fruits of an open European market has fueled its commitment to modernization and, thus, propelled the nation toward meeting the criteria for EU-membership.

As of now, Turkey has eight months to implement current reforms and improve human rights to meet the standards of the Copenhagen agreement.

Assuming a positive outcome of the October talks, the new EU-candidate would undergo strict scrutiny for at least 10 years before becoming a member sometime between 2014 and 2020.

Even then, Turkey cannot expect to enjoy the same benefits and privileges as other members. Instead, protective clauses, meant to shield current members from harmful effects, would deny Turkey certain rights enjoyed by all other EU-nations.

The reservations could affect several key areas, including the right to work and live anywhere within the EU, the right to obtain agricultural support and the right to receive aid from the union's reserves.

While discussing these broad potential reservations during the EU summit in Brussels, Erdogan threatened to withdraw from membership negotiations altogether. And who could blame him?

After recognizing the Greek Cyprus government despite opposition from his own constituents and agreeing to partially restructure Turkey's political, cultural and legal justice systems, Erdogan could only bring home the possibility of a conditional membership sometime in the next decade.

Yet, Erdogan's desire to join the EU is strong, and, therefore, Turkey will continue to seek the approval of other member nations, implementing changes if necessary.

Given time, Turkey could develop into a modern Islamic democracy of major importance for preserving peace between future civilizations.

This progress should not be hindered by power-hungry, anti-foreign European top dogs who wish to

limit the EU to affluent, primarily Christian nations, yet see in Turkey an opportunity to boost the EU's geopolitical and military power closer to that of the United States and China.

Bridging civilizations aside, the current members seemingly plan to keep Turkey on a short leash, restricting possible EU benefits.

In the meantime, Turkey will face difficulties bringing its economy up to European standards, and poor Turkish workers will hear that sacrifices and exploitation are necessary to realize the European dream.

What they're not told, however, is that conditions for European workers have deteriorated and poverty rates have soared. And while big corporations profit off cheap labor by outsourcing businesses to new members, minorities continue to fight against oppression, discrimination and poverty.

Dangling the EU-bait under Turkey's nose is likely to encourage peaceful co-existence between a liberal, modern society and a secular, Islamic democracy. On the other hand, excluding Turkey from the EU, or from certain rights and benefits enjoyed by members of the EU, would not only be wrong, but it could catapult one of the most significant geopolitical nations toward Islamic fundamentalism, resulting in increased animosity and potential for terror.

Anna Molin is the Spartan Daily managing editor. "How Swede It Is" appears every Monday.



ANNA MOLIN

WORLD OF THE NO

BRIAN PEREZ



SPARTA GUIDE

Sparta Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff members. The deadline for entries is noon three working days before the desired publication date. Entry forms are available in the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, room 209. Entries can also be e-mailed to spartandaily@cas.sjsu.edu titled "Sparta Guide." Space restrictions may require editing of submissions. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received.

TODAY

School of Art and Design

An art exhibit featuring student galleries will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Art building. For more information, call the gallery office at 924-4330.

Office of the President, Student Affairs Division and Associated Students

"A Conversation Around Strategic Planning" will take place from noon to 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Loma Prieta room of the Student Union. For more information, call Rachel Greathouse at 924-6244.

Catholic Campus Ministry

Daily Mass will take place at 12:10 p.m. in the Catholic Campus Ministry chapel. For more information, call Father Mike Carson at 938-1610.

Women's Resource Center

An event for "Safer Sex Valentine Grams" will take place from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. in front of the

Student Union. For more information, call 924-6500.

African Awareness Month Planning Committee

"A Huey P. Newton Story" will be shown at 7 p.m. at the Mosaic Cross Cultural Center.

Pride of the Pacific Islands

A Polynesian dance practice will take place from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. in room 75 of Spartan Complex. For more information, call Courtney Tarifa at 924-2221.

Student Life and Leadership

Registration for the "Leadership U Workshop Series," which will begin Feb. 17 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Ohlone room of the Student Union, is currently open. To register, go to Student Life and Leadership or call 924-5950.

A.S. Election Board

A.S. candidate applications are available at the second floor of A.S. House. For more information, call 924-5656.

BRUTALLY HONEST

Drawbacks come with professing your love on Valentine's Day

There was a time when Valentine's Day was a simple holiday.

Now it's become a double-edged sword. You either hate this holiday or you love it.

As kids, the scenario for most of us was probably the same. A parent would buy some Valentine's Day cards featuring our favorite cartoon characters and we'd pass them out to our classmates.

After everyone gave out their cards, you'd sit back, eat some cookies or candy and read what each card said.

Usually the card had some form of impersonal, corny message on it, and because of this, it wasn't alarming to get one that said "Be Mine" from your best buddy.

In high school, there were candy grams. These cost anywhere from 25 cents to a dollar, and were often utilized for practical jokes.

There's no other day like Valentine's Day when you can send a love note on behalf of your friend to a girl he despises.

Now, as adults, things are different.

We're no longer passing out Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle cards. (Well, most of us.)

We're not spending our lunch money on candy grams.

We're simply spending money, and lots of it.

Retailers have taken the idea of love and milked it for every dollar it's worth.

Entire sections of stores have been devoted to Valentine's Day merchandise since the beginning of this year.

A sea of red paints department stores and red or pink hearts are plastered all around.

There are bears with hearts on their chests, heart-shaped boxes with candy, heart-shaped candy — the list goes on and on.

It's sad to see Valentine's Day return year after year, as it has become a day to shell out large amounts of cash in the name of love.

Guess who's shelling out all of this cash? Yep, it's the guys.

Cupid's arrow has struck males right in their behinds and burned holes in their wallets.

Of the 366 days this year, Feb. 14 is designated as "the day" to shower your significant other with gifts.

It's like Christmas in February for females.

Let's look at the facts.

If you're a male in a relationship, it's not a big deal if you don't get anything from your better half today. It's not expected, and you really don't care either way.

However, if you ignore the holiday and don't get your girlfriend or wife anything, expect to get interrogated by the end of the day.

Oh, and don't think it'll stop there. The anger from her will last a good week.

If males were able to amend holidays on the calendar, Valentine's Day would be the first to go.

Males aren't the only ones with reservations about the holiday. Have you had a conversation with a bitter and lonely single person today? They probably aren't doing cartwheels.

So unless you want to move to Saudi Arabia, it looks like Valentine's Day is going to stick around for a while.

My advice is, if you're a guy, get out there and get your lady something nice.

She'll appreciate the effort, regardless of the cost. That is, unless she's a complete prude or Paris Hilton.

Expensive is not necessarily better. If you have any creativity whatsoever, use it.

Just remember, the truth is that you don't need to wine and dine someone to express your love. All you need is each other.

OK, that was really sappy — but it's true.

A relationship based on pricey gifts is one that should cease to exist.

Ken Lotich is the Spartan Daily executive editor. "Brutally Honest" appears every Monday.



KEN LOTICH

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SPARTAN DAILY (USPS#509-480) is published every school day for (full academic year) \$40 and (semester) \$25. Periodicals postage paid at San Jose. Mail subscriptions accepted on a remainder of semester basis. Spartan Daily, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0149

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Spartan Daily, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0149

OPINION PAGE POLICY — Readers are encouraged to express themselves on the Opinion page with a letter to the editor.

A letter to the editor is a response to an issue or a point of view that has appeared in the Spartan Daily.

Only letters between 200 to 400 words will be considered for publication.

Submissions become property of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, libel and length. Submissions must contain the author's name, address, phone number, signature and major.

Submissions may be placed in the Letters to the Editor box at the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, Room 209, sent by fax to (408) 924-3237, e-mail at spartandaily@cas.sjsu.edu or mailed to the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0149.

Editorials are written by and are the consensus of the Spartan Daily editors, not the staff.

Published opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the views of the Spartan Daily, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications or SJSU.

MILLER - Wrote 17 plays, including "Death of a Salesman"

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The play went on to be the only one in Broadway history to win the New York Drama Critics' Circle award and a Tony in the same year.

Other plays that put Miller on the Broadway map were "The Crucible," "A View From the Bridge" and "All My Sons."

"The Crucible" embodied Miller's outrage at McCarthyism.

According to "The Crucible in History and Other Essays," by Arthur Miller, "The Crucible" straddles two different worlds to make them one, but it is not history in the usual sense of the word, but a moral, political and psychological construct that floats on the fluid emotions of both eras.

Miller had been blacklisted by Hollywood when he refused to testify in front of the House Un-American Activities Committee, according to the Spartacus Educational Web site.

Although the play, "Death of

a Salesman," shot Miller into the spotlight — along with his short-lived marriage to breathy blonde bombshell Marilyn Monroe — it also overshadowed the rest of his career.

He wrote a total of 17 plays, but his last critical and commercial hit was "The Price" in 1967.

His first play, "The Man Who Had All the Luck," was a flop when it first appeared in 1944, but it had a successful revival starring Chris O'Donnell in 2002.

Miller visited San Jose State University for the first time on April 22, 1999, and read from his then latest play "Mr. Peters' Connections" at Morris Dailey Auditorium.

During his visit at SJSU, he shared thoughts on his life and work. The event was sponsored by the university's Center for Literary Arts.

The visit marked the 50th anniversary of "Death of a Salesman."

According to an SJSU press

release, the play had sold 11 million copies, making it the most successful modern play ever published.

The playwright used many of his life experiences throughout his career as material for his plays, including how the Great Depression changed his family's life and his rocky marriage to Monroe.

Miller was born in Manhattan on Oct. 17, 1915, to Augusta and Isidore Miller. He was one of three children.

His third wife, Inge Morath, an Austrian-born photographer and painter — whom he married shortly after divorcing Monroe — died in 2002.

He is survived by his two children from his first marriage, Jane and Robert; his daughter from his third marriage, Rebecca; a sister, Joan Copeland, an actress; his companion, Agnes Barley, a young painter he met after Morath's death; and four grandchildren.

Miller was 89.

Break it down ...



Shaminder Dulai / Daily Staff

Joseph Garcia, a freshman majoring in electrical engineering, practices break dancing moves Wednesday outside the entrance to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Joint Library.

FORUM - Senate seeks to define academic freedom

continued from page 1

try and a learning institution," Kassing said.

For more than two hours, audience discussion and scheduled speakers focused on three issues: Electronic information and national security, the importance of classroom debate and controversy as a pillar in education and the relationship between academic freedom and temporary faculty.

Academic Senate Chair Annette Nellen said that in order to preserve it, academic freedom must be more clearly defined to the campus community.

"We need to be talking more about what academic freedom means for the faculty and the students (and) what should be happening in the classroom," she said.

According to the American Association of University Professors, academic freedom is the right of academic professionals to research, publish and teach class curriculum without fear of reprisal from outside forces, such as politics, religion or the judiciary, or forces from within the university system, such as the

administration.

This includes the introduction of controversial class material that may be unnerving or uncomfortable for students, said history Professor Patricia Evridge Hill, who is also the SJSU chapter president of the California Faculty Association.

"Even if they think an interpretation is going against everything they have been taught by their family, their church or their community, the fact the professor has the freedom to say that is what guarantees that students will receive the most modern education," Hill said. "They don't have to agree with it. They can be opposed to it. But they should be exposed to it."

Another topic discussed was the ongoing plight of Professor Ward Churchill, former chairman of the ethnic studies department at Colorado University, Boulder. In an essay written three years ago, Churchill made controversial comments about the world trade center attacks.

He claimed the attacks were revenge for the deaths caused by U.S.-led sanctions in Iraq, that the people killed on Sept. 11 were "military targets" and that the hijackers were "combat teams," not

terrorists, according to the Rocky Mountain News.

Churchill's essay recently sparked controversy across the media spectrum and led to his resignation as department chairman.

The issue was touched on by forum participants, including Kassing, who recalled watching two of Churchill's students trying to explain the importance of academic freedom during a television interview.

"It was clear that this commentator was not interested or didn't understand academic freedom," Kassing said. "I thought it was very interesting to see and I didn't like what I saw."

Faculty members also discussed the growing number of Students for Academic Freedom chapters on college campuses.

The goal of Students for Academic Freedom, an organization started by conservative author and columnist David Horowitz, is to foster intellectual diversity on college campuses. As a result, Horowitz drafted the Academic Bill of Rights with the intention of making all course curriculums "fair and balanced."

Its mission statement claims

"Liberal Arts faculties at most universities are politically and philosophically one-sided."

"Faculty bias is reflected in the curriculum of courses available, in the manner in which they are taught, in readings assigned for classroom study, and in discussions only open to one side of a debate," according to the statement. Because of this outlook, the organization also makes accusations of classroom indoctrination.

But Nellen, of the academic senate, takes issue with this accusation.

"Our students don't have time to be indoctrinated; they'll just raise their hand and say, 'no, there is another viewpoint,'" she said. "Where's the indoctrination? What do professors say? 'Unless you believe this, you're not going to get a good grade.'"

Meanwhile, according to the professors' association, four states are considering passing the Academic Bill of Rights into law, including California, where a bill titled SB5 idles in senate committee. The Georgia legislature passed an Academic Bill of Rights resolution last year.

Marcus Harvey of the professors association sees this as a disturbing trend and worries about the long-term implications of legislating class curriculum.

"Students benefit with a certain confidence that the quality of education they receive is being determined by people who are most expert in the field, rather than by politicians or lobby groups," Harvey said. "SB5 would fundamentally erode educational quality. You have to think about how it's going to play out over time. The implications are really where the dangers lie."

VALENTINE'S - Men and women view day differently

continued from page 1

items by men for the holiday.

"I think sometimes we're afraid that we might show a side that will get us laughed at," Crumpacker said. "If we're creative, we might fail, and if you go the safe route, you know it's going to go fine. There's nothing to worry about if you don't get too creative."

However, the holiday holds different importance to men and women and the way each wants to celebrate. For instance, in a poll by Match.com, 29 percent of men said they thought an ideal date would be a romantic dinner, while 36 percent of women would prefer doing something non-traditional and unique.

Some women at San Jose State University said they believed that ideal Valentine's dates include going to the beach for a picnic, cooking at home, going to a play, having brunch or taking walks through the park together.

Differences such as these can be seen in other aspects of the holiday too. The importance of the day, the amount of money that is spent, the thought behind the gifts purchased and the types of items given are just a few examples.

Many of these differences do coincide. Match.com says 86 percent of women consider Valentine's Day to be more important than men do, while only

one percent of men think they consider Valentine's Day to be more important than women do.

"Valentine's Day is a really important day because it is a celebration between lovers. It's a

"Valentine's Day is a really important day because it is a celebration between lovers."

Christina Harris, student

good way to be together with the person you love and be able to celebrate the positive aspects of your relationship, to be happy and love together.

each other," said Christina Harris, a junior majoring in sociology. "Women are saps. It's important to us."

One the other hand, the thought and preparation for the day are not generally something that is taken into consideration by men, as 30 percent of men buy gifts for the day either on Valentine's Day or the day before, according to the Society of American Florists. However, according to the National Retail Federation, men pay more for gifts than women, with men buying gifts that have an average cost of \$158 and women spending an average of only \$36.

The overall feeling toward Valentine's Day has noticeably changed and may continue to do so throughout time. However, the need to show affection through gifts and lavish dinners doesn't seem to be going away, Crumpacker said.

"It's the one day where a guy can be as cheesy and corny as a girl," Crumpacker said. "Every guy is going to be doing the same thing. It's just expected."

Commute choices to SJSU... from all over the region



With AS Eco Pass, SJSU students & employees can enjoy unlimited rides on all VTA buses & Light Rail

VTA Bus



Operates throughout Santa Clara County. Also serves the Fremont BART station.

VTA Light Rail



Two blocks from SJSU. Runs every 15 minutes. Free park and rides lots available.

Caltrain



San Francisco - San Jose - Gilroy
Baby Bullet Express Service to/from San Francisco in less than an hour. Free shuttle offers connection between Caltrain and SJSU.

Carpool & Vanpool



Join a carpool or a SJSU Vanpool. Access carpool lanes while reducing commute costs.

Highway 17 Express



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SJSU wins one of three

By Amber Sheldon
Daily Senior Staff Writer

The San Jose State University baseball team managed to wedge a win in between two losses to UC Santa Barbara this past weekend, losing the first game 5-4 in extra innings and dropping the final

**GAUCHOS 6,
SPARTANS 1**

match 6-1 Sunday, while posting a 6-1 victory on Saturday.

During the final game of the three-game home stand, SJSU pitchers Wes Porter, Matt Winck, Shane Brechmann and Daniel Crombie took to the mound, with starter Porter being charged with the loss after playing two innings, allowing one run on one hit.

Pitcher Brandon Dewing said the team came out flat.

"We didn't execute," Dewing said. "We hit the ball hard, just right at people. Hitting wasn't consistent and the pitching wasn't all there either."

Saturday afternoon, SJSU pitcher Brandon Hennessey earned his second win after manning the hill in nine straight innings for the Spartans' lone victory over the Gauchos.

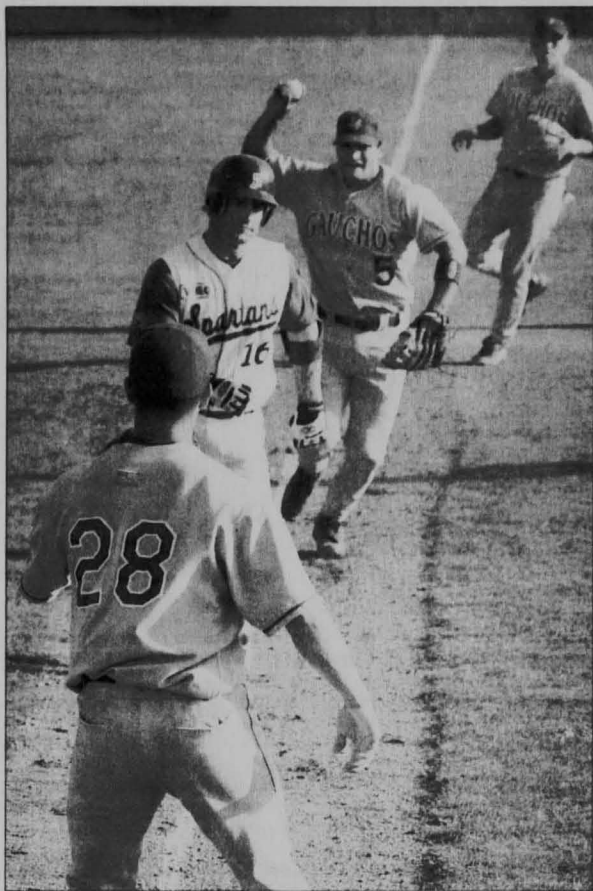
In the first inning, the leadoff batter for UCSB connected with a home run to provide his team with a 1-0 lead.

Hennessey said he was unfazed by the unfortunate first hit of the match.

"I've given up a million home runs in my life, so I didn't really care," Hennessey said. "After the first guy hit a home run I thought, 'I don't know how much longer am I'm going to be in here for,' but I thought it doesn't matter - I can come back."

Spartan head coach Sam Piraro said it has been a great outing for the rookie, pitching against one of the top offensive Division-I teams on the west coast.

"What he did was change speeds with an assortment of different pitches, his fastball, his curve ball, change up, split - they could not figure him out all day long," Piraro said. "It's a credit to him to get those pitches over the



Brian Connelly / Daily Staff

Spartan outfielder Travis Becketl, No. 16, gets caught in a rundown between third base and home plate during the Spartans' win against UC Santa Barbara on Saturday. The Spartans won one game out of the three-game weekend series.

plate, so the other team had to be prepared for all of them."

Piraro said the team played extremely well on Saturday.

"There were a few routine plays and a few outstanding plays. We were able to run down several balls, (the) infield made plays and catching has been sound," Piraro said. "Pitching is still a big question mark."

On Friday, both teams battled in the rain, combining for six errors.

SJSU was up 4-2 until the top of the ninth, when Gauchos catcher Matt Kalafatis connected with a two-run homer off Spartan reliever Brad Kilby, to even the score at 4-4.

Third baseman Ryan Angel said

it was tough to see the Gauchos tie the game in the ninth, but they had to continue playing strong.

"We had to fight and do what we could to back up our pitching staff and try and get some runs," Angel said.

At the top of the 12th, as the sky grew dark and the dirt turned to mud, the umpires suspended the game for rain, but not before UCSB posted the go-ahead tally to take the lead 5-4.

The game resumed Saturday afternoon at Blethen Field after being rained out of Municipal Stadium the night before, but the Spartans were unable to register the equalizer.

Kilby was issued the loss.

Women's basketball team loses to La Tech, is denied first place in WAC

By Lauren Bosch
Daily Staff Writer

A six-game win streak was snapped and any hope for a first-place tie in the Western Athletic Conference was lost Saturday night for the San Jose State University women's basketball team.

Despite two game-winning shots by senior forward Lamisha Augustine in their last games, the

**LADY TECHSTERS 80,
SPARTANS 51**

Spartans quickly unraveled against first place Louisiana Tech, losing 80-51 at the Event Center.

"I told the girls tonight that Louisiana Tech showed signs of a championship team. They came in here and were determined not to give up a share of that first-place spot," said Spartan head coach Janice Richard. "But this was not a championship game. We still have a lot of basketball left."

Even with the team's rocky play, Richard has confidence the team will make a strong comeback.

"I talked to them about being disappointed in the effort. I didn't feel like they were focused and ready to go," Richard said. "But I think absolutely we will regroup and show everyone just how much they want to win."

SJSU quickly fell behind the Lady Techsters, falling to 5-0 within the first four minutes of the game, but they were pushing the first-place team around the court, causing missed shots and then taking advantage and scoring off of Louisiana's missed opportunities. This allowed the Spartans to take control and go on a 10-0 run in the first half, taking a 14-8 lead. That was the last time SJSU had control.

Even though the team's starting lineup was back together after a week without starter Nica Gemo, they were unable to mold together at any point of the game, allowing Louisiana to score 50 points in the second half.

"Our defense wasn't there, we weren't there tonight," said Augustine. "Our offense didn't get any plays off. We did not connect at all."

The loss showed the team's weaknesses, high-

lighting recent struggles of guard Jessica Kellogg.

"Defensively, I could tell they were going to keep (guard) Lakiste Barkus on (Kellogg). She didn't even give Jessica a chance to do anything," said Richard. "She played great defense. Jessica has been a key piece of our offense and to not have her these last few games has been hard."

Containing Kellogg has been a theme during the past week and though Louisiana and Southern Methodist University have been successful, it has allowed other Spartans to lead and guide the team.

"The focus for me was Jessica Kellogg. I put Lakiste Barkus on her all night and tried to play the game by taking her out," said Louisiana Tech head coach Kurt Budke.

Budke's main focus was not to control all of SJSU's high scorers — Amber Jackson, Augustine and Kellogg. Instead he had his team focus on containing Kellogg.

"I was mostly worried about Kellogg. Lakiste made up her mind that she was going to chase her all night and she just took it," Budke said.

But Kellogg's struggles aren't the focus for the team, as Richard and Augustine both pointed out they work together and no one is the key to their success.

"If one player struggles, we all struggle. If (Kellogg's) not shooting three's and doing what she does, this team can feel it," Augustine said. "This team is not about one person."

The loss comes after the team's last second win against SMU on Thursday night. The Spartans beat the Mustangs 63-62 in overtime.

The real story, however, comes from SJSU's bench, as sophomore guard Lindsay Harris took control of the game, and tied her career high of 18 points.

The team was able to come back from an 11-point deficit, behind the leadership of Harris.

"Lindsay gave us a huge lift," Richard said. "For her to come in and give 18 points tonight, we have not had anyone come off the bench like that all season."

Her leadership pulled the Spartans past the Mustangs and into overtime where both teams struggled. It was clear the game would come down to a last-minute shot.

"I looked at (Augustine) and said 'It's on you,'" Richard said. "I would not have wanted the ball in anyone else's hands. She has proven she is the one to go to when the game is on the line."

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Brian Connelly / Daily Staff

Andy Roddick returns a shot during the singles final of the SAP Open on Sunday. Roddick won in straight sets, 6-0, 6-4.

Roddick wins his second SAP Open

By Shannon Barry
Daily Staff Writer

After a seven-day stretch at the HP Pavilion, the SAP Open came to a close.

The week finished on Sunday with defending champion Andy Roddick facing off against unseeded Cyril Saulnier of France.

The match was short-lived, beginning at 3:09 p.m. and lasting until 3:59 p.m.

Unlike Roddick's first round match against Goldstein on Wednesday, Roddick overpowered his opponent.

"In the first set I played some real good tennis," Roddick said. "I would really have to nitpick to find something wrong with it. I am glad that it stayed together in the second."

Roddick defeated Saulnier at 6-0, 6-4 with nine

aces in the match.

After Roddick's endless leaps, bounds and slides, the second set picked up as Saulnier began to gain confidence, Saulnier said.

"It was my first final so I didn't know exactly what I needed to do," Saulnier said.

Roddick kept his cool against the first Frenchman to enter into the finals at the SAP Open.

With Roddick as the second-ranked player in the world, Saulnier said he was proud of his success during the week.

After a bounce back of success from the Australian open where he lost a four-set semifinal loss to runner-up Lleyton Hewitt, Roddick said he hopes this will continue with the 21st annual NASDAQ tournament in Miami, starting March 23.

Roddick is the first player to consecutively win the SAP Open since Pete Sampras' wins from 1999-2000.

What's Up, You Ask?

Strategic Planning emerged as a high priority item this past academic year and we're using the very successful forum model to engage the campus in a discussion of core values- an important element in strategic planning.

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Emeritus aims for love in 25th annual Valentine's Day reading

By Shannon Barry
Daily Staff Writer

Poets, musicians and fans alike will have the chance to join Nils Peterson, professor emeritus of English, in a classical celebration of Valentine's Day.

The 25th annual Valentine's Day reading, "Love's Not Time's Fool," will be held at Le Petit Trianon, located at 72 N. Fifth St. beginning at 5:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 at the door.

The event showcases all faces of love — old love, anxiety, fulfilled — from all across the ages, said Sally Ashton, events coordinator of Poetry Center San Jose.

Peterson said that while he mainly reads other poets at the event, they range anywhere from Shakespeare to Cole Porter.

The event, sponsored by Poetry Center San Jose, joins Charlene Archibeque and the San Jose State University Choraliers in her last year of conducting the choir.

"A lot of people view SJSU as a commuter school and this is a great community," said Erin Osborne, a senior majoring in advertising. "While we are not a professional choir, we have a professional caliber."

Peterson said the quarter-century collaboration between himself and Archibeque began quite simply.

"At the time, I was singing in Charlene's choir, even though I wasn't a student. I would arrange my classes so I could sing along with the students," Peterson said.

Archibeque recalls her experi-

ence with Peterson.

"He actually went with the choir on one of our Europe tours and wrote poems," she said. "He just loved traveling with young people."

She added they started the concert and it was such a hit that they decided to keep doing it.

Kelli Lueder, a graduate who is part of the credential program, said she came back to the Choraliers to join Archibeque in her last year.

"It is the last year (students) will be able to hear an ensemble under

State, I was in the well-over-29 club," she said. "It was a real pleasure to have Nils as a teacher. He is a very good teacher because he has that presence in front of the room. You want to listen to him."

Peterson said the event has grown over the years, but began as an effort to bring poetry to downtown San Jose.

Peterson and Naomi Clark formed Poetry Center San Jose, Taylor said.

"It grew out of the 1976 bicentennial year," Peterson said. "We

got a grant from the city and we had readings and scholars. It was very successful so we did it again the next year, though the school could no longer support it."

He added that the event, "Love's Not Time's Fool," was named after a line in Shakespeare's Sonnet 116.

"The emphasis is that love is not time's fool. Fool in that context means playing," he said.

Peterson said the event has taken place at several venues over the years, but they find themselves happy with Le Petit Trianon.

It may not be a big venue, which causes it to crowd easily, but it has good acoustics, he said.

Because this event takes place until 7 p.m., Peterson, Archibeque and Taylor agree it can be the beginning of a spectator's evening.

"I hope that they will enjoy the music and poetry and general air of celebration of love in its many forms," Peterson said. "Sometimes I have the audience sing a bit and they go out singing to the world, filled with love."

"Sometimes I have the audience sing a bit and they go out singing to the world, filled with love."

Nils Peterson,
professor emeritus

this name and under the direction of Archibeque. I have been part of this event for about three years," she said. "It is a lot of fun."

In regards to his own poetry, Peterson said a lot of his poems are about a rather shy boy meeting a woman for the first time.

"I grew up in a Scandinavian family that didn't deal much with sex," he said. "I had to find my way slowly and shyly into that world."

Mary Lou Taylor, a board member of Poetry Center San Jose, has been working closely with Peterson since he taught at SJSU.

"When I was graduating from

DANCE - Group practices for fifth annual luau

continued from page 1

written language. The dances were created to thank the gods and celebrate, according to the Web site spiritsouthseas.com.

Courtney Tarifa has been with the club for four years. She graduated last semester in design studies but continues to help teach the dances and prepare for the luau. She said the Polynesian community in San Jose is small.

"I don't have Polynesian ethnicity at all," Tarifa said. "But I think maintaining that we are interested in the culture helps get others interested."

The luau is the club's main event and is the accumulation of months of work.

"The luau is important because it shows the Polynesian

culture to the San Jose State community," said President Kimberly Sylvester, who also helps teach the dances. "They

ships," Leong said. "We mesh really well. It's like family."

The Polynesian dance practices are open to all students Monday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Students are allowed to miss no more than two practices if they want to participate in the luau. Members pay \$5 a month and non-members pay \$20.

Although students who did not attend practices last semester will have some catching up to do, all students are welcome to participate, Sylvester said.

"We're not just limited to Polynesian ethnicity," Sylvester said. "As long as (students) are willing to learn about (Polynesian culture), then that's fine."

"(The luau) brings a lot of people together and a lot of families come and see it," Leong said. "It connects everybody."

"We've built a lot of friendships."
Jason Leong,
student

really value life and community and the dance shows it."

Jason Leong, a senior majoring in marketing, has been a club member since 2001 and joined the club to meet new people.

"We've built a lot of friend-

VALUES - Strategic planning high on Kassing's agenda

continued from page 1

Strategic planning has become one of the priorities this academic year, said interim President Don Kassing in a recent press conference.

The process began several years ago with a comprehensive review of existing policies and programs within the university, Poole said.

In Fall 2004, a forum was held to gather shared values of the faculty. Monday's forum will allow students to voice their concerns and opinions.

"The Goals Advisory Council then takes all of these values and drafts a vision for the university," said Veril Phillips, acting vice president for student affairs.

"I urge (students) to come and participate. We are planning the future — we need to know what

(the students) want," said Carmen Sigler, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs.

After information is gathered from the various policies and forums, the University Planning Council devises an "action plan" to put in place goals for the next five to 10 years, Poole said.

Using this "action plan," the Resource Planning Board recommends to the president how to best allocate funds so that the university can accomplish its original goals.

Phillips, who is a member of the Goals Advisory Council, attends at least one meeting every week for strategic planning.

"(This process) is time consuming, there's lots of reading and discussions, but everyone is optimistic and realizes the importance for the university," Phillips said.

Other California State

Universities, including Cal State Long Beach and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, have adopted strategic planning, Sigler said.

"I visited the Long Beach campus and (strategic planning) was a wonderful experience for them," Sigler said.

Phillips said the Goals Advisory Board has reviewed several models of strategic planning, but since each campus is unique, it is impossible to duplicate these models.

Individual surveys will be distributed and collected during the first 15 to 20 minutes of the forum, allowing students to leave early if they need to do so, Poole said.

Pool said after the surveys, small groups will form and the facilitator and recorder will conduct in-depth interviews with participating students, who will be asked to describe their values.



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Valentine's Day concert to benefit victims

By Shannon Barry
Daily Staff Writer

Anyone opting for an offbeat way to celebrate Valentine's Day should stroll by the San Jose Repertory Theatre for "Marga

PREVIEW

Gomez: The Complete First Season Live!" today at 7 p.m.

This Valentine's Day concert not only brings the comedian, playwright and Latina lesbian to the stage, but it also brings the love of Valentine's Day to life.

"When the tsunami disaster happened, we decided we wanted to do something, but we weren't running a show at that time," said Jill McIntyre, public relations manager of the Repertory Theatre.

Gomez was already scheduled to perform at the theatre, but because it was a one-night performance it was an opportune time to give back to the community, McIntyre said.

"As a community organization, we wanted to make sure the community could figure out a way to get involved," said Ruth Pangilinan, sales and marketing manager of the Repertory Theatre.

Tickets to the show cost \$18 to \$25, with \$1 of all ticket sales going to the American Red Cross Tsunami Relief Fund, she said.

"It is important to note they are going to need our help for a long time to come," Pangilinan said. "Yes, it was well over a month ago, but they are going to need our efforts and we must not forget what they lost."

While this may seem like a meager effort, McIntyre said the Repertory Theatre is a nonprofit organization and a lot of the proceeds made will be going to the fund.

"For the one-night events, it is about bringing someone different that our audience members

might not normally go see," McIntyre said.

With 20 years of performance material — including seven solo shows and hours of comedy under her belt, Gomez said her performance will highlight the best of her work.

"This show is about relationships," Gomez said.

"People will feel connected to everybody and you don't have to be straight, gay, a man or a woman. I am really bringing universal themes to the audience."

McIntyre has worked with Gomez at the San Diego Repertory Theatre before, but she is excited to see her perform.

"I am not at all sorry I have to work on Valentine's Day," she said.

"It is much better than trying to figure out something to do."

Gomez said she inherited the performing bug from her parents, a Cuban comedian and a Puerto Rican dancer.

In the '80s, she said she moved to San Francisco where there was a big performance and arts scene and she started acting right away.

Gomez added that she is lucky to make a living at it, but that everything was really intuitive rather than trained.

"I don't go see a lot of stand-up comedy because we are all trying to grab jokes from the same topics," Gomez said.

As a comedian and theater artist, Gomez said this performance is a play she is trying to develop for an off-Broadway experience.



Photo courtesy of Marga Gomez

"I stand by everything I do even if it's not shaking my ass or throwing up the four letter word," Gomez said.

"People are made up of all experiences."

Gomez credits her success to her longtime companion.

"I am all about my 13-year-old Jack Russell terrier," she said.

She is my valentine. I don't know if she feels the same way about me. It might be a one-way relationship. The only reason I perform is to earn enough money to buy her toys."

With 350 tickets sold out of a full capacity of 500, Pangilinan said in order to continue growing in the community, the theater needs to count on the support of the people.

McIntyre hopes that Gomez's performance will bring in new audiences who aren't used to going to the theater but would come see a comic, she said.

Gomez said her performance will cater to people who are on a date and promises a valentine treat.

"Because Valentine's Day falls on a Monday, this will help give people something to do," Gomez said.

"Sometimes there is nothing to do but eat steak. And for couples that have been together for a while, I can help give them a natural aphrodisiac."

Solitude captured in exhibit

By Sergey Loginov
Daily Staff Writer

The small postcard-sized black and white images may make you weak in the knees. Motionless something, supposedly a human body, covered by

REVIEW

a white sheet and an X-ray of the human skeleton in the far corner of an otherwise empty room, a tiny infant lying under an examination light, an incised dead body with intestines out, a bandaged hand in the spot of light resting helplessly next to medical instruments, autopsy scales — these pictures are unlikely to put you in a cheerful mood.

"Vital Signs," an exhibition of works of Jacqueline Thurston, a San Jose State University professor since 1965, opened Saturday in the Koret Gallery at the San Jose Museum of Art.

The caption of one of the photographs prompted a 10-

year-old visitor to ask his father, "What is autopsy, dad?" "It's when somebody's dead, and you need to know why," his dad replied.

Although "Vital Signs" doesn't really burst with vitality, scaring is not the purpose of the exhibition. Some images are less disturbing than the ones mentioned above, yet each of them seems to be peeping into the other world, offering a mini-study of ultimate loneliness mere mortals experience in the proximity of the unknown.

"The black and white photographic medium provided me with an opportunity to work with symbolic dimensions of dark and light and to allow the movement from dark to light within each print to evoke the mysterious nature of life," Thurston said.

Taken in the mid-1970s at hospitals and doctors' offices, the photographs in "Vital Signs" capture vulnerability of everything that's bodily.

On each of the 17 pictures, a living creature, be it a newborn

infant or an anesthetized dog, is just a fragile shell of bones and muscles bestowed with life that he or she or it doesn't solely possess.

"I have intended each miniature jewel-like image as a tribute to an intimate moment filled with reverence for the frailty and imperfection of the physical self and for the perfection of the inner life of the soul it holds," Thurston said.

She compared modern medical practice with the times of shamans who were much closer to their patients than the doctors of today.

"Now, unlike distant times, we share our individual, private experience of our own mortality with strangers. We embrace the medical wisdom of our time, knowing as we do that inevitably, we will feel — and will be — alone."

Stop by the Koret Gallery if you are not afraid of such sad thoughts.

"Vital Signs" will run at the San Jose Museum of Art through June 19.

Small company puts on big play

By Ashley Little
Daily Staff Writer

A new era of Shakespeare has arrived in San Jose.

Now playing at the Northside Theatre Company is director Rob Price's adaptation of William

REVIEW

Shakespeare's "12th Night."

With a variety of characters, old-style Shakespeare, and a new twist, this play wins over the crowd.

It is a modern version, but it has an old-style dialect that makes Price's creation worthwhile.

Set in the 1940s during World War II in a place called Illyria, twin siblings Viola and Sebastian are separated and presumed dead after a shipwreck. Viola and Sebastian both assume that the other has drowned.

Believing she is now all alone without her brother, Viola takes on the role of a sailor boy, think-

ing that is the only way for her to make it in the world.

Taking on the identity of Cesario, servant to Duke Orsino, she is able to convince everyone that she is a man.

The duke she works for is in love with a countess named Olivia, while discovering a love for Cesario. Yes, that's right, the duke is falling in love with the sailor boy.

When the duke sends Cesario to talk to Olivia about his love for her, Olivia is instantly intrigued by Cesario.

She hears nothing that falls from his mouth about Duke Orsino.

This turns out to be one bizarre game of attraction.

With a drunken uncle, a practical joke played on a butler, a twisted love triangle, and a gang of "fools," the audience gets a laugh-out-loud adventure.

"12th night" is a comical, yet a sometimes confusing play.

With a shortened version of the play, some parts seem to be missing from the plot, which raises some questions about the events that take place.

There should have been parts that were left in to make it all flow together and make more sense. Some characters also are not fully introduced, but once the play goes on, it is apparent who everyone is.

The costumes could also be

improved for some of the characters.

With a girl trying to be boy, it should be more convincing.

However, with all of the mistakes and unpleasant parts, the actors make up for it with their great portrayals of the characters.

Melinda Marks, who plays the part of Viola, does a great job representing both sides of Viola and Cesario's character.

The best performance of the night would have to go to the drunken uncle who steals the show. Sir Toby Belch, played by Steven Lewis, is the face of perfection when it comes to an evil, alcohol-ridden prankster.

With not quite a full house, "12th Night" and the Northside Theatre Company deserve more credit and attention.

The small but personal atmosphere gives the audience a chance to get more involved in the play.

The audience is closer to the stage and action and closer to the emotions of the actors.

With such a small theater, there is able to be a more relaxed atmosphere. At the end of the play, all of the actors go out and greet the audience one by one to thank them for coming.

This is a very personal touch that connects the audience with the actors.

This allows for interaction from behind the scenes that most theaters do not offer.

With an underdeveloped stage, the focus is more on the actors and the play itself.

Although it is not visually pleasing to be in the room, the hard work and dedication shows through the actors.

This may not be a must-see play, but it is one that people should go see if they have time. It is a unique representation of "12th Night," but at some times may be a little hard to sit through until the comedy comes shining through.

The play can be seen at the Northside Theatre Company on East William Street through March 6.

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Dancers twirl to lyrical guitar music Saturday night in Ballet Flamenco Sara Baras' presentation of "Sueños" ("Dreams"). The company performed shows Saturday and Sunday in Berkeley at Zellerbach Hall.

RIGHT: Sara Baras, the choreographer and director of Ballet Flamenco Sara Baras, spins in a blur of motion.

FAR RIGHT: Sara Baras holds a pose while other dancers in her company spin and stomp their feet to the rhythm.

At times, it's good to have a proof that some stereotypes can be quite a cool thing.



Photos by Neal Waters / Daily Staff

Flamenco dancer sets flames to dance floor

By Sergey Loginov
Daily Staff Writer

Holding a huge capacity of more than 2,000 seats, Zellerbach Hall at University of California Berkeley

REVIEW

was packed tight this weekend with a sophisticated audience which came to watch "Dreams" of Spanish Ballet Flamenco Sara Baras.

If the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word "flamenco" is "something passionate and Spanish" with hot spicy guitar passages and twice as hot and spicy women selflessly beating out rhythms with their heels and showing other miracles of footwork, you may not be that wrong.

The Ballet Flamenco is made exactly of that stuff.

This may be a stereotype, but one that is nice and not disappointing.

Baras and her company presented their Bay Area premiere of "Sueños" or "Dreams," a suite of dances based on flamenco puro, what is considered to be the most traditional and essential form of the art.

Two guitars, percussion, violin, two male vocals, six female and three male dancers — these ingredients created a perfect, explosive mix of condensed Mediterranean passion. No props

— just dim light and action on the bare stage.

At times, it's good to have a proof that some stereotypes can be quite a cool thing.

At home, in Spain, Sara Baras' fellow countrymen seem to have understood it well, turning her into the country's trademark, approximately the same way the Russians did it with their Bolshoi Theatre and Americans with their democracy.

According to the Cal Performance Web Site, Baras was named the "Face of Andalusia" and her image represented the Andalusian regional government's tourist board.

She appeared on postage stamps, was the model for the image of the advertising campaign of Magno cognac, and the protagonist of the Andalusian government's forest fire prevention campaign.

The latter, after seeing Baras on stage, seems somewhat of an odd choice.

She is likely to light somebody's fire more than prevent it.

Every other minute, the respectable Berkeley audience members burst out with applause, yelled and hollered in agitation comparable to that of teenagers at a rock concert.

Baras held the audience completely mesmerized, making it covetously follow each of her footsteps and snaps of her fingers.

The culmination of "Dreams" was Baras' fiery solo in farruca, a dance usually performed by male dancers.

Being active propagandists of flamenco as they are, Baras and her company still can handle their beloved subject with good sense of humor.

At the end of the show, when the troupe went to their final bow, normally nondancing percussionist Antonio Suarez performed several flamenco moves shamelessly displaying to the audience his hairy belly and floral underpants to the accompaniment of everybody's laughter.

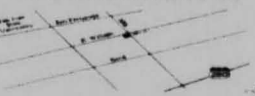
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Romantic comedy shines with optimism

By Angela Forte
Daily Staff Writer

Will Smith exudes his usual charisma and confidence in "Hitch," a witty romantic comedy equipped with optimism and

REVIEW

a cliché Hollywood ending.

Forgoing his usual roles as a heroic cop or an alien buster, Smith plays Alex "Hitch" Hitchens, a "date doctor" who helps the men of New York City obtain their dream women.

The movie opens with three men desperately trying to get noticed by their women of choice.

Hitch's determination to help men is driven by his own insecurities.

A nerd in college who was "eager to make up for lost time," Hitch fell in love and got his heart pummeled by his first real crush.

Experiencing tremendous hurt, Hitch felt obliged to pass on his wisdom to fellow men. He does this by educating them on women — everything from body language, lies and high expectations of first kisses.

And for some reason, Hitch is really good at it.

One of Hitch's new clients, Albert Brenneman, played by Kevin James ("King of Queens") is an aloof corporate accountant, who has the likes for one of his company's clients, Allegra Cole, a conventionally beautiful socialite played by supermodel Amber Valletta.

Soon Albert is taking Allegra

to fashion shows and attending Knick's games with her.

After a lot of huffing and puffing, mustard spills, and embarrassing dance moves involved, Albert captivates her interests and seals the deal with a kiss — all thanks to Hitch's advice.

The only thing that Hitch fails at is his own love life, especially when it comes to Sara Melas, played by Eva Mendes.

Sara, a self-professed cynic and gossip reporter for the "New York Standard" tabloid, is so obsessed with advancing her own career that she has no time, let alone faith, to find the man of her dreams.

However, one evening Hitch notices Sara and is instantly enamored by her sultriness. Hitch doesn't leave his number, but he contacts Sara via walkie-talkie to set up a jet-skiing adventure to Ellis Island.

With many laughs from the audience, Hitch and Sara cultivate some type of relationship, but both stay guarded.

Hitch continues to conceal his real career, declaring that he is a "consultant" and Sara tries to ignore her feelings of love for Hitch.

A fallout between the two occurs when Sara's career jeopardizes Hitch's reputation as well as his clients and their relationships.

There are a few parts in this movie that make you giggle, but not laugh in pain.

"Hitch" is recommended for those who are very hopeful, and for those cynics, watch it anyway for fantastic shots of Manhattan and the soundtrack.

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Annual Vietnamese parade celebrates the year of the rooster



Story by
Marsea Nelson /
Daily Staff
&
Photos by
Colin Underwood /
Daily Staff

LEFT: Dancers perform culturally rich dances for paradegoers during the Tet Parade on Sunday in downtown San Jose.

The rain held off for the Eighth Annual Vietnamese Spring Festival & Parade in downtown San Jose on Sunday.

People lined up six rows back along each side of Market Street to watch the parade go by Plaza de Cesar Chavez. Flags with the American flag on one side and the Vietnamese flag on the other were waved by crowd members, and children were hoisted onto adults' shoulders to get a better view of the parade.

The festival welcomed in the Vietnamese Lunar New Year and celebrated the year of the rooster. The parade, which went from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., attracts about 60,000 people from the Bay Area each year and is made possible with the support of more than 1,000 volunteers, according to the festival's Web site.

Before the parade started, prominent figures in San Jose and in the Vietnamese community spoke.

Mayor Ron Gonzales received a warm applause when he wished the Vietnamese community a happy new year in English and then in Vietnamese.

Councilmen Forrest Williams and Chuck Reed addressed the audience solely in Vietnamese.

After the American and Vietnamese anthems were played, festival director Linda Han Nguyen presented a Red Cross representative with checks from the Vietnamese American community totaling \$37,000.

"I am once again overwhelmed by the generosity of the Vietnamese American community," the representative said.

The crowd waited patiently for 45 minutes through the speeches before the parade officially began.

Along with floats, marching bands and

beauty queens, brightly colored lion and dragon dances were featured throughout the parade. The lions and dragons had decorated heads with long, blinking eyelashes and each body was carried by several dancers.

Traditional dances using fans, ribbons and umbrellas were also performed. Prominent members of the Vietnamese American community drove by in convertibles waving to the crowd.

Thuy Nguyen stood on a park bench to observe the parade. She said it was her first time attending.

"We heard about this and went to check it out," Nguyen said. "Nobody's cheering. It's so funny."

There were two announcers, one who spoke in Vietnamese and another who translated into English. The crowd, as well as the parade participants, included a wide age range.

Students of San Jose State University participated in the parade, including the women's tennis team and the SJSU Vietnamese Student Association.

Chris Aguirre, a sophomore majoring in kinesiology at SJSU, went to the parade with his friend who was in town.

"I never came to this festival before," Aguirre said. "It's nice to try something new and check it out."

The announcer said people born in the year of the rooster are hard-working, make definite decisions and are good travelers and restaurant owners. The last year of the rooster was 1993.

The New Year celebration dates back thousands of years when, according to visitmekong.com, Vietnamese farmers thanked the gods for the arrival of spring.

Police were present and the crowd remained orderly. About halfway through the parade, a backup occurred when an ambulance had to drive to the side of the parade route to pick up a spectator. The spectator did not appear to be seriously injured.



ABOVE: A Tet parade attendant gives an offering to a dragon using a ceremonial red envelope at Sunday's Vietnamese Lunar New Year celebration in downtown San Jose.



LEFT: Youths parade holding symbolic imagery during the Tet Parade. The youth represent Vietnam's future and the brass drums represent their history.



LEFT: Local young performers dazzle parade observers with acrobatics during Sunday's Tet Parade celebration.

Happy Valentine's Day!

To: The Guy at La Victoria.
I met you for only a second, Fri 2/4 at La Vic. You were on the phone, I was on my way out. Please contact me at:
bulgarka22@yahoo.com
From: The Girl at La Victoria

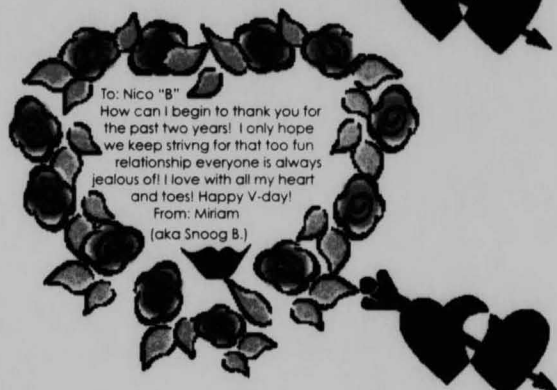
To: Pear Yuan! VP Finest!
No one can count the minutes like you. Thanks for being an awesome chair. Keep it up. Stay Sweet! From:
Pink Pigs

To: Oui
I love technology, but not as much as you and me. Always and forever, I'm a dork in double E, you're a hottie in psychology. Always and forever.
From: Poppas

To: My Adam Dearest
Sometimes I wonder while you are asleep, if I will be the one you will always keep; close to your heart, close to your soul, I want to be the one to play that role. Adam I love you. I think I do. Always and forever, my word is true. Thinking of you,
Natasha

To: Yao
I have been watching you working out in the Sport Club. You are the sexiest guy I have ever seen. Next time I see you, I will ask you out.
From:
Takasha Yakou

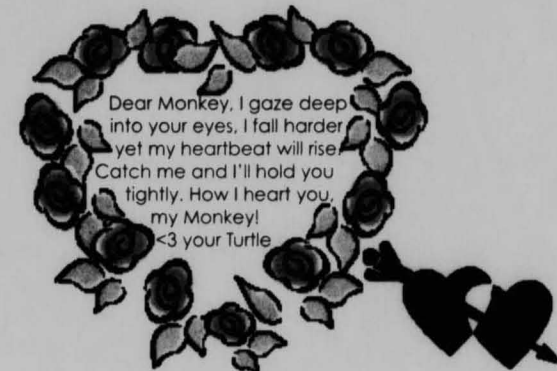
To: Vince
I Love You!
Happy Valentine's Day! BUSS!
From:
Dana



To: Nico "B"
How can I begin to thank you for the past two years! I only hope we keep striving for that too fun relationship everyone is always jealous of! I love with all my heart and toes! Happy V-day!
From: Miriam (aka Snoog B.)

To: Jesse
I love you so much baby, and I always will. I am forever yours!
Happy Valentine's Day!
From: Danielle

To: Alpha Phi Omega Hancocks!
Thanks for the great times and awesome memories. You guys rock! Happy Valentine's Day pledge sibs!
From: Your Hancock Pledge Prez



Dear Monkey, I gaze deep into your eyes, I fall harder yet my heartbeat will rise. Catch me and I'll hold you tightly. How I heart you, my Monkey!
<3 your Turtle

Dear Colonel,
Please stop scolding chickens while they are still alive.
Sincerely
KentuckyFriedCruelty.com

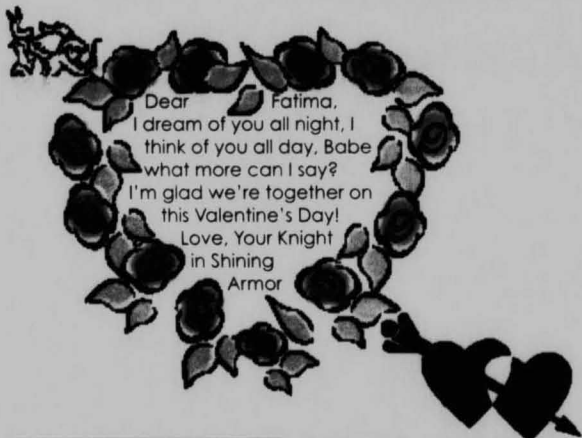
To: Courtney
You are the best big sister in the world! You have made my experience at Alpha Omicron Pi wonderful.
From: Your Little Sister Tina



To: My Sweet Angel
Your love melts me like fondue cheese!
ALWAYS BE MINE...
Love, Christopher

To: Cooper Scooper
Thanks for all the fun times and laughs. Remember, you'll always be my queen!
Happy Valentine's Day!
Love, Your Kling and Rec Buddy!

Dear Becca,
I am so happy that you are part of the team. I appreciate your hard work and positive attitude. You are awesome!
Love Your Secret Admirer



Dear Fatima,
I dream of you all night, I think of you all day, Babe what more can I say? I'm glad we're together on this Valentine's Day!
Love, Your Knight in Shining Armor

To: Maria Murphy
Roses are red, Violets are blue, You are the best damn Admin. Assistant ever!
From:
Your House Sweeties

To: Jeff
Our Fifth Valentines, and I love you more than ever.
From: Jesse



To: Tony Baran
Happy Valentine's Day Sweetheart! I love you with all of my heart. Thanks for being the best boyfriend and friend ever.
Love, Jennifer Ginorio

To: Derrick
You're a very sweet and loving person and I'm lucky to be with such a sweet and loving guy. Happy Valentine's Day!
From: Kel

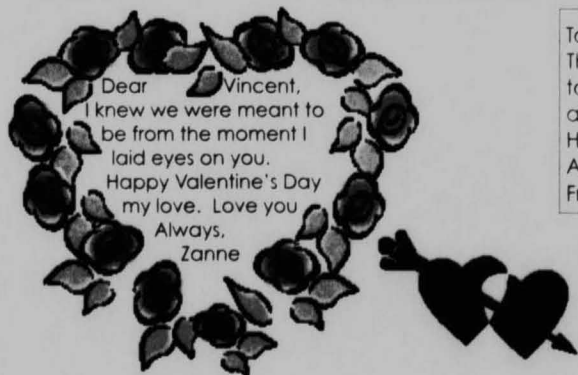
To: Andrea
A cliché, but true: I'm a better person for knowing you. You are the best!
Love, UCB

To: Charles Rozal (Boo Boo)
Happy Valentine's Day! I Heart You! So much! Love you, Love you, Love you, and many more I Love You! See ya at home tonight!
XOXO, Alice

To: Marko Man Dorn
Happy Red Hearts and Chocolate Day! I love you like a fat kid loves cake. You will always and forever be my "CHONE MAN". Neil says "hi" too. *Wink Wink* From Your Honey Bunny, Maybell

To: My Lover & Friend
You are my one true love always and for ever. I love you!
From:
Sexy

To: Tanner Marcoida
I think that you are the most beautiful woman on campus. I even love your girly VW Bug.
From: A. Mann



Dear Vincent,
I knew we were meant to be from the moment I laid eyes on you. Happy Valentine's Day my love. Love you Always,
Zanne

To: Stephanie
The time we spend together is really, really special. I love you. Happy Eight Month Anniversary!
From: Jon

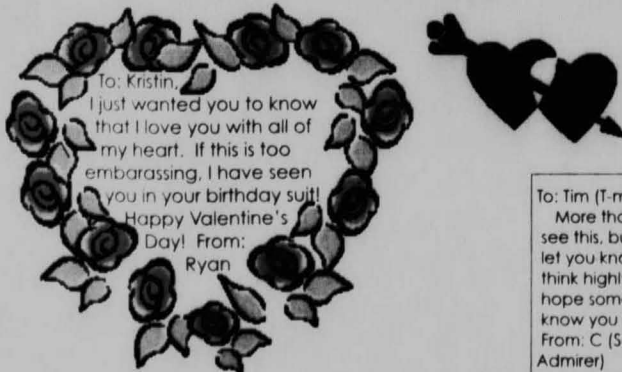
To: Annie
Whenever you're around, I can't function. You are the sun in my sky, the beat of my heart, the apple of my eye...please... Be My Valentine!!!
From: David

To: Lauren
Even though we are apart on this Valentine's Day, I want you to know that you are in my thoughts and in my heart. I love you so much sweetie. Thank you for you have given me.
Love Always, David

To: Christopher Filice
Your naughty angel craves for you... Today, tomorrow and always. Happy Valentines! Love you you BABE!
From: Aida

To: Gabriel Uriah
"Through the good and the bad to live up to our pact" I love you for ETERNITY!!!
From: Nicole Renee...Van de Vrugt

To: Lovey T
Happy V-Day to the love of my life. You are my one and only. I love you with all my heart!
From: Lovey G



To: Kristin,
I just wanted you to know that I love you with all of my heart. If this is too embarrassing, I have seen you in your birthday suit! Happy Valentine's Day!
From: Ryan

To: Tim (T-mac)
More than likely, you won't see this, but I just wanted to let you know that I truly do think highly of you and I hope someday I'll get to know you better.
From: C (Secret Admirer)

To: Rachel Greathouse
My clearest A.S. president, you have an amazing student body and I like a woman with power! You rock my vote!
From: Your F.A. Rushee

